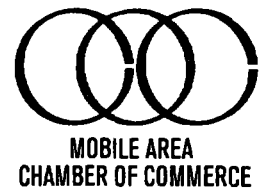
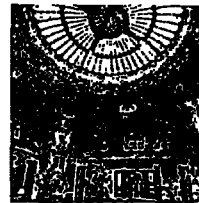
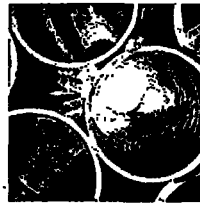


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April 18, 2011

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The Honorable Daniel R. Elliot, III
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Suite 1220
Washington, DC 20423-0001

EP 705

Dear Chairman Elliot:

I am writing to express the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce's support for a strong freight railroad network, not only in our state/region, but across the nation.

Mobile is fortunate to be home to fantastic transportation infrastructure including five Class I railroads and anything that stops them from being able to improve their own infrastructure can be detrimental to our economic development efforts. As America finally begins to pull itself out of the Great Recession, we do not need to reverse progress by damaging the ability of the rail industry to reinvest and continue to provide strong service. We at the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce support a healthy freight rail network that encourages reinvestment by the rail industry, supports job growth and continued economic recovery. We oppose any policy or regulatory changes that would hinder the freight railroads' ability to continue investing billions of dollars annually in private capital to grow and modernize the nation's rail infrastructure.

We respectfully request that no regulatory or policy changes be pursued at this time by the STB. We need to maintain the strong and well-balanced regulatory regime we have in place today.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

Sincerely,

Troy L. Wayman, CEcD
Vice President, Economic Development

pc: Mike Grim
Bob Chappelle
Ginny Russell

